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Agenda item 122
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Letter dated 26 September 2000 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations concerning a request for exemption for his country under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex). Appendix 1 to the letter contains a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Harri **Holkeri**
President of the General Assembly

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Annex

Letter dated 25 September 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

On the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to forward to you a letter from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mr. Akil Akilov, dated 15 September 2000, regarding exemption of Tajikistan from the application of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations owing to the continuous economic and financial difficulties that the country is facing (see appendix 1).

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Appendix I

Letter dated 15 September 2000 from the Prime Minister of Tajikistan addressed to the President of the General Assembly

First of all, permit me to express my profoundest gratitude to the United Nations and to you personally for the understanding and support given to my country.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, sharing the concern of the United Nations regarding the Republic's contributions to the United Nations regular budget, intends to adhere to its obligations in connection with the payment of the Republic's share and will, as far as it can, make every effort to achieve that end.

The Republic of Tajikistan's contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations from March 1992 to 2000 were set at US$ 2,324,754. The actual amount paid by the Government over that period is $919,756.

In addition to that amount, the sum of $46,000 has been paid out of the Working Capital Fund, which was specially established for developing and newly independent countries, together with $2,555 bank charges. The total paid by the Republic of Tajikistan therefore amounts to $968,311.

Unfortunately, the country's economic situation, resulting from the consequences of a long period of armed civil conflict in which over 50,000 people died and material damage amounting to over $7 billion was sustained, makes it impossible at present for the Republic of Tajikistan's assessed contributions for previous years and for the current financial year to be paid in full and on time.

During the years 1992 and 1993, about a million people became refugees or displaced persons. Many settlements were completely destroyed and the damage suffered by dwellings, infrastructure, industry and agriculture reached catastrophic proportions.

On the conclusion of the military activity, which had been extensive, the efforts of the Government of the Republic were directed at mitigating the social consequences of these upheavals. Substantial financial and material expenditure was required for the return of an enormous number of refugees to their previous places of residence and for the restoration of dwellings, schools, hospitals and other buildings.

In addition, the territory of the Republic has been struck by one natural disaster after another, including mountain torrents and landslides. Considerable expenditure is required to deal with their consequences, despite the country's extremely limited financial resources.

In 1999 the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan suffered a whole series of natural disasters. As a result of torrents, avalanches, landslides and floods, there were 12,992 casualties, including 37 deaths.

Damage was sustained by 125 schools and pre-school institutions, 25 hospitals and health centres and 76 cultural institutions. In addition, 122 bridges, 1,179.1 kilometres of roads, 349.1 kilometres of electricity lines and 90.8 kilometres of communications lines were damaged or destroyed.

The total damage caused by natural disasters to the economy of the Republic during 1999 alone is estimated at US$ 19 million.

A drought, unprecedented during the twentieth century, has persisted throughout the spring and summer of this year over the whole territory of my country. Between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the grain harvest has failed. According to estimates by the World Food Programme, approximately 3 million people — that is, half the country's population — are suffering a serious shortage of food products.

The fall of cotton, aluminium and tobacco prices on the world market has also had an inevitable effect on the Republic's economy, since the country's export potential is based on these raw products.

It should also be noted that the gross domestic product per capita of the Republic is the lowest among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The budget deficit, which is largely financed from foreign loans, remains substantial.

At the same time, enormous progress has been made over the past five years in extending economic reform, restructuring the national economy, strengthening and developing international contacts and integrating closely with the world economy.

One of the most important factors in achieving the country's economic and political sovereignty and in strengthening economic reform was the introduction of a national currency, which enabled the Republic to establish its own credit and monetary policy. A currency market has started to operate in the country. Price liberalization has taken place. At the same time, the institutional reorganization necessary for the functioning of a multi-structured economy is being carried out.

With support from international institutions, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is taking measures directed at macroeconomic stabilization. In the very near future, this will make it possible to provide the population with greater opportunities to satisfy their most urgent living requirements and to give assistance to those categories of citizens belonging to the poorest sections of the population.

On the basis of the modest revenue available from the State budget during the current period, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has paid $65,250.76 of the Republic's contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations.

In that connection, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan encloses a plan for the phased reduction of its arrears to the regular budget of the United Nations, which amount to $1,356,443 as at 1 August 2000. We would be extremely grateful if the Committee would accept our proposal.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan requests that the Republic's arrears in relation to its contributions to the United Nations regular budget up to 1 September 2000 be considered as having been caused by circumstances beyond the Republic's control and that implementation of Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations should be postponed to the end of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan wishes to express in advance its gratitude to the United Nations and hopes for support and understanding in connection with this issue.

(*Signed*) Akil **Akilov**

Appendix 2

Plan for the phased reduction of the arrears of the Republic of Tajikistan to the regular budget of the United Nations

Year	*Percentage*	*Amount (US$)*	*Additional yearly contribution*
2001	5	67 822	-
2002	5	67 822	-
2003	5	67 822	-
2004	5	67 822	-
2005	5	67 822	-
2006	15	203 466	-
2007	15	203 466	-
2008	15	203 467	-
2009	15	203 467	-
2010	15	203 467	-
Total	**100**	**1 356 443**	-

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Human resources management

Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present document contains the quarterly report on the situation of gratis personnel during the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997, in paragraph 6 of which the Secretary-General was requested to report on a quarterly basis on the acceptance of the gratis personnel referred to in paragraph 4 of the resolution, with a view to ensuring compliance with its provisions.

2. The present report updates previous quarterly reports (A/52/709 and Corr.1, A/C.5/52/43, A/C.5/52/51, A/C.5/52/56, A/53/715, A/C.5/53/54, A/C.5/53/59, A/53/1028, A/54/533, A/C.5/54/51 and A/C.5/54/54) and covers the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000.

II. Quarterly report on the acceptance of type II gratis personnel for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000

3. During the period from 1 April to 30 June 2000, the total number of type II gratis personnel engaged by the Organization was reduced from 17 to 11. Of the 11 persons still engaged, 9 were working at the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 2 at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as indicated in table 1 below.

4. The overall activity during this period includes newly reported engagements of gratis personnel for the International Tribunal as well as adjustments to reflect retroactively reported extensions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division and the inclusion of previously unreported personnel in UNCTAD.

5. In his letter of 27 January 2000 (A/54/734) to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General indicated that the proper investigation and effective implementation of the mandate of the International Tribunal dictate that forensic examination in the remaining non-investigated sites in Kosovo be completed in 2000. Approximately 300 additional personnel, performing their work in teams on a rotational basis, would allow for the accomplishment of this goal. The Secretary-General therefore approved the Prosecutor's request to accept expert gratis personnel for the Tribunal for a limited period of six months.

6. As reported by the International Tribunal, it had no type II gratis personnel at the beginning of the reporting period; 17 persons were engaged and 8 separated between 1 April and 30 June, leaving 9 persons active as at 30 June 2000. All engaged staff were deployed in forensic investigations in the field in Kosovo. The relatively low number of gratis personnel in the reporting period can be explained by the fact that the memoranda of understanding signed between the International Tribunal and individual countries took some time to take effect. Some personnel arrived between 1 April and 30 June, with additional later deployments that will be documented in future reports.

7. During the previous reporting period (1 January-31 March 2000), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division had a number of extensions that went unreported. According to the records, the number of type II gratis personnel with the Department as at 31 March 2000 was 15 instead of 1, as previously reported. All this staff was separated over the months

from April to June. UNCTAD omitted reporting the extension, up to 31 March 2000, of 2 type II gratis personnel engaged since the previous period. These persons have remained engaged over the current reporting period.

8. Table 2 provides data on type I gratis personnel serving under an established regime. These are interns, associate experts and technical cooperation experts obtained by non-reimbursable loans and gratis personnel serving with the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) (established as a subsidiary body of the Security Council to replace the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM)) as at 17 December 1999) (see A/51/688/Add.2, para. 4, and A/51/688/Add.3, para. 3). The total for each category as at 30 June 2000 is compared with the numbers contained in previous reports. Prior to 1999, associate experts and technical cooperation experts were not recorded in the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) system and were reported separately. Therefore, the increase in their number may be partly attributable to incomplete reporting in previous periods. Also, databases for interns and UNMOVIC staff were recently readjusted and synchronized with IMIS.

9. Finally, table 3 shows nationalities and functions performed for the type II personnel remaining on board as at 30 June 2000.

Abbreviations used in the tables

DPKO/FALD	Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Field Administration and Logistics Division
ITFY	International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IMIS	Integrated Management Information System
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNMOVIC	United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission
UNSCOM	United Nations Special Commission

Table 1
Quarterly report on the number of engagements and separations of type II gratis personnel
(1 April-30 June 2000)

Department or office	*Number as at 31 March 2000*	*Number engaged in April*	*Number separated in April*	*Number as at 30 April 2000*	*Number engaged in May*	*Number separated in May*	*Number as at 31 May 2000*	*Number engaged in June*	*Number separated in June*	*Number as at 30 June 2000*
DPKO/FALD	15	0	11	4	0	3	1	0	1	0
ITFY	0	2	0	2	6	3	5	9	5	9
UNCTAD	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	2

Table 2
Evolution of type I gratis personnel

As at	*Interns*	*Associate experts*[a]	*Technical cooperation experts*[b]	*UNSCOM/ UNMOVIC*[c]	*Total*
31 October 1996	131	76	31	112	350
30 September 1997	195	72	32	109	408
30 September 1998	214	115	31	18	378
31 December 1998	30	274	32	36	372
31 March 1999	122	295	29	30	476
30 June 1999	316	317	25	26	684
30 September 1999	289	314	18	25	646
31 December 1999	39	245	16	24	324
31 March 2000	40	282	13	17	352
30 June 2000	154	267	13	15	449

[a] 200 series.
[b] See ST/AI/231/Rev.1.
[c] See S/22508; S/RES/1284 (1999); as of 17 December 1999 UNMOVIC was established as a subsidiary body of the Security Council to replace UNSCOM.

Table 3
Functions performed by type II gratis personnel in service, by department or office
(as at 30 June 2000)

International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (4)

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Austria	Chief Inspector	5
Canada	Inspector	3
Canada	Forensic Investigation Officer	1

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2)

Country of nationality	*Function*	*Number of persons*
Republic of Korea	Economist (Analysis of external financing and debt problems of least developed countries and other developing countries; to assist in formulating and backstopping planned consultancy projects on aid effectiveness)	1
Republic of Korea	Economist (Follow developments in the international trading system, including through attendance at meetings of the World Trade Organization)	1

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Programme planning

Impact of the format of the medium-term plan on the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to a request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for an analysis of the implications of the format of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 on the cycle of programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. The new format complies fully with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8). Since the different phases of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle are closely connected, the changed format of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 would provide for effective implementation of the subsequent phases of the cycle.

Introduction

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, in its report on the first part of its fortieth session (A/55/16 (Part I) and Corr.1 and 2, para. 38), recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report at its fifty-fifth session on the implications of the new format of the medium-term plan on the cycle of planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation in the context of the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. The present report is submitted to the Assembly in response to that request.

Programme planning

2. As noted by the Secretary-General in the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6 (Introduction), para. 10), the format of the proposed medium-term plan follows the requirements of the Regulations and Rules Governing

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Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8), including the revisions adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/207. The format of the proposed medium-term plan is new in the sense that the programme narrative, in comparison with medium-term plans of previous periods, has been more rigorously structured around the components identified in article IV of the Regulations and Rules: overall orientation, objectives, strategies, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

3. This structured approach to programme planning has required programme managers in the Secretariat to make a clear distinction between the objectives, strategies and expected accomplishments of each subprogramme and to reflect on how achievements can be assessed through the application of indicators of achievement. Although there is still room for improvement, subprogrammes have been formulated with a stronger sense of direction in terms of what is to be accomplished during the four-year period of the medium-term plan. Since the approved medium-term plan serves as the framework for the formulation of biennial programme budgets, the approach followed in preparing the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 also has implications for the other stages of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle.

Programme budgeting

4. The objectives, strategies and expected accomplishments in the biennial programme budget will be derived directly from those in the medium-term plan so as to be consistent with and to strengthen the linkage between the medium-term plan and the programme budget. As a result, programme managers will again be required to adhere to the same conceptual distinction between objectives, strategies and expected accomplishments. The programme budget will continue to include a full listing of outputs. Requested resources will continue to be justified in terms of the requirements of output delivery, in accordance with regulation 5.3. Programme budget methodology would not be affected.

5. The General Assembly had previously requested that programme performance reports place more emphasis on qualitative analysis to reflect achievements in implementing programme activities (resolution 53/207, sect. V, para. 10). In this connection, rule 105.4 provides, among other things, that in the programme budget, expected accomplishments shall be expressed in terms that will facilitate the subsequent determination of whether the expectations have been met. Such a subsequent determination would necessarily rely on the use of assessment criteria by which achievements can be measured against expectations. As the proposed medium-term plan already contains such criteria in the form of indicators of achievement over a four-year period, the measurement of achievements over a two-year period would require the identification of indicators of achievement for each expected accomplishment included in the biennial programme budget. These will follow those in the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 but would be developed to a more detailed and operational level for the two-year period.

Monitoring and evaluation

6. Rule 106.1 (a) (ii) requires that at the end of the biennium, the actual progress made towards achieving expected accomplishments should be determined, as measured by the delivery of final outputs, in comparison with the commitments set out in the programme narratives of the programme budget. As indicated by the Secretary-General in his report on ways in which the full implementation and the quality of mandated programmes and activities could be ensured and could be better assessed by and reported to Member States (A/54/117), one way for improving assessment of the quality of programme performance would be to relate outputs to outcomes. The inclusion of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in the proposed medium-term plan for 2002-2005 would therefore have an impact on the monitoring exercise related to biennial programme performance by adding a qualitative aspect to existing quantitative measurements.

7. Regulation 7.1 (a) states that the objective of evaluation is to determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives. In the proposed medium-term plan for 2002-2005, an attempt was made to provide a solid basis for implementing regulation 7.1

by formulating more clearly the objectives of each programme and subprogramme. Furthermore, the inclusion of indicators of achievement is an important step in complying with rule 107.1 (b), which requires that baseline data and indicators of achievement be utilized in the evaluation process to assess programme impact in terms of the objectives.

Conclusion

8. The format of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 follows the requirements set out in the Regulations and Rules. Since the different phases of the programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation cycle are closely connected, the format of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 will also provide for more effective implementation of the subsequent phases of the cycle.